



Holy Cross Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Mass: Monday and Tuesday 9:00a

Adoration: Monday 9:30a

Weekend Schedule:

Confession: Sunday 3:30-4:15p or by appointment

Mass: Sunday Mass 4:30p

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30a to 12:00p

Fr. Cody Williams, Pastor Email: frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org

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Townsend, Montana 59644



The Jubilee Year of Mercy

Starting on Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The jubilee years started during the times of the Old Testament. Every 50 years the people would celebrate an extraordinary year of mercy. During this year all slaves were set free, all debts were either paid or forgiven, no one planted crops, and everyone got a whole year to rest. When Jesus came, he proclaimed through his life and death that he would inaugurate a jubilee year that would continue through the centuries. The church has continued this tradition. The first proclaimed jubilee year was started by Pope Boniface VIII in the year 1300 to commemorate the start of a new century. Since this time, the Church continues to call jubilee years every 25 years and sometimes to commemorate specific events. This year, the 25th year of the century, Pope Francis called a year of hope to invigorate and focus on the virtue of hope. He writes:

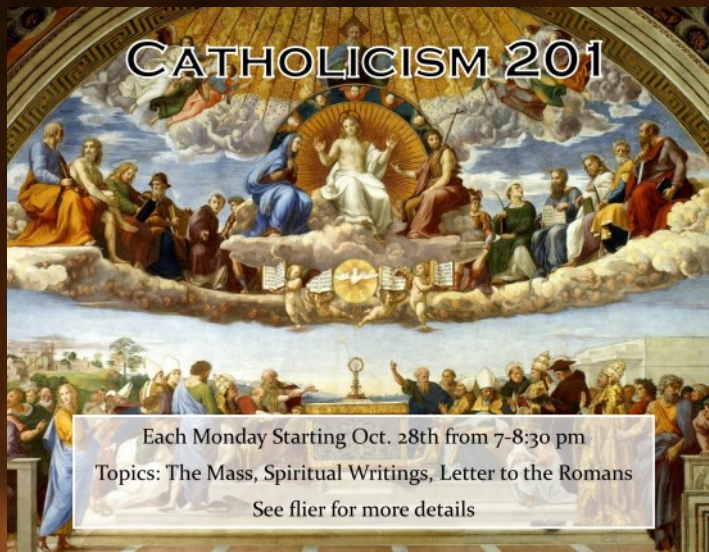
“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...”

During this jubilee year, many different events will take place. Pope Francis has released a calendar of event that will happen at the Vatican to build our sense of hope and invigorate our lives as Catholics. Part of every jubilee year is the opening of the Holy Doors. Each cathedral around the world has a special door that marks a holy year. Some doors, like at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, St. Mary Major in Rome, and many others, have doors that are sealed except for when they are opened for a jubilee year. The doors are sealed with mortar and are cut open for the start of a jubilee year. If you would like to watch the process, the opening of the sealed doors is part of inaugurating the jubilee year and is televised. Our own cathedral also has a holy door that anyone can walk through. Walking through a holy door, and performing the other necessary steps, grants a person an indulgence. The bishops of the world are encouraging special Masses to celebrate this year as well as special prayers to be said by the faithful.

Additionally, this jubilee year is a unique year. 1700 years ago, the Council of Nicaea, the first official Council of the Church, convened and gave us the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed, which we say at every Sunday Mass, is the synthesis of our basic Christian beliefs. Almost all major denominations and some minor denominations share this Creed and those basic beliefs. The Church encourages all people to spend time throughout the year reflecting on the words and meaning of the Nicene Creed to invigorate our faith.

We all need hope. Pope Francis tell us in his bull inaugurating the Jubilee Year of Hope: “Hope does not disappoint.” (1) “Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross.” (3) Our hope comes directly from our faith in God. The stronger our faith, the stronger our hope, and vice versa. We all need to invigorate the virtue of hope and spend time reflecting on its power in our lives and the necessity of our hope in God. May this year encourage this virtue and inspire your faith.

Fr. Cody



Each Monday Starting Oct. 28th from 7-8:30 pm
 Topics: The Mass, Spiritual Writings, Letter to the Romans
 See flier for more details

The sessions are on Mondays from 7-8:30 pm. You can also join a livestream version on Thursdays from 5-6:30. If you would like to join, send an email to Fr. Cody.

We are in need of volunteers to help with RE dinner. Dinners will feed all ages of the youth and their families, therefore, we should plan on feeding around 80 people every Sunday. Please consider either providing a full meal (planning, purchasing food & cooking) or simply preparing/cooking a meal with food that the parish purchases, either help would be greatly appreciated. We encourage you to partner up with another member/family of the parish to help ease the burden of feeding that many people.



Parish potlucks

Every 4th Sunday of the month we have a parish potluck where anyone can bring a dish or come down and enjoy some good food. As part of the desire for the circles to be more active in the parish, I am assigning a circle to each potluck as the point group for the potluck. They're responsibility is to set-up, clean-up, and help make sure there is enough food. Anyone is welcome to bring food and help. The circle's responsibility is to facilitate the potluck. The rotation of the circles is as follows:

Sunday, Jan. 26th – Circle of Understanding

Sunday, Feb. 23rd – Circle of Hope

We will cycle through the circles following the above schedule for the rest of the months of the year. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Fr. Cody.



The Holy Cross Quilters would like to remind parishioners of the Baby Essentials that were collected, along with a large donation of diapers, wipes & rash creams from Catholic Social Services of Helena.

If you know of someone in the community who could use a gift basket of these items, please contact the Holy Cross office:



(406) 266-4811

Faith Night

Exploring the issues of our times in the context of faith



The next topics:

Feb 17th—Prisons

Mar 17th—Immigration

May 19th—Poverty and Homelessness

For all ages. Free dinner

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Mass on Tues, Dec. 31st at 4:30 pm



Holy Day of Obligation

Scripture Readings



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 12-29-2024

Reading 1: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
 Reading 2: Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
 Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

The CHOSEN
 Movie Night

2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
 7-8:30 PM
 FREE MOVIE, POPCORN AND SNACKS.
 ALL ARE WELCOME!
 SPONSORED BY: HOLY CROSS CHURCH
 101 S. WALNUT STREET

All bulletin information requests need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance and by email to

bulletin@holycrossmt.org.

Requests submitted by texts or calls can not be guaranteed

Bulletin deadline is Monday at 10a.

TWO weeks in advance

MASS	Schedule
Monday December 23	Mass 9a Seminarians Adoration 9:30a No Catholicism 201
Tuesday December 24	Mass 9a Homebound Parishioners Christmas Mass 8p
Wednesday December 25	
Thursday December 26	
Friday December 27	
Saturday December 28	
Sunday December 29	Confession 3:30p Mass 4:30p Parish Family No RE

The new email address for any information for the bulletin or advertisements is bulletin@holycrossmt.org

Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 29, 2024

4:30pm

Greet:

Larry and Buffy Woodring

Lector:

Mary Ellen Schnur

Gifts:

Eichinger Family

EM:

Niki Weiss and Missy Cox

Money Counters:

Juanita Bray and Karen Susag



The Annual Catholic Appeal has kicked off to raise money for the yearly expenses of the Diocese. Our parish goal for this year is \$21,900. Donation envelopes are available on the information table at the front of the church or you can donate online by going to diocesehelena.org.



If anyone would like to donate towards the poinsettias we would greatly appreciate it. Please put poinsettias in the memo part of your check or write on the envelope that the donation is for poinsettias. There will also be envelopes for the flower donations at the back of the Narthex.



St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs: 12/24 at 4:30p
St. Joseph, Harlowton: 12/25 at 10a



Montana State **MARCH for LIFE**
Friday, January 3, 2025
11:30am-1pm

Save the Date

This Year's National March for Life Theme:
"LIFE" - It's Why We March!

Montana's *March for Life* will be held in the Capitol Rotunda starting at 11:30am where we will celebrate, honor and recognize the many state and local individuals, churches and organizations who chose to defend life and oppose CI-128.

We will conclude this Celebration at 12:30pm with a Prayerful March around the Capitol in **Celebration of Life!**

For more information go to Prolife Montana's website at:
Prolifemontana.com
Or contact Cheryl Wilson at:
cheryl@prolifemontana.com

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY
FOR THE POPE, CHURCH,
PRIEST, FAMILIES,
CHILDREN & FOR
THE WHOLE WORLD

"Say the Rosary
every day to obtain
peace for the world."
Our Lady of Fatima,
1917



SUNDAYS @ 4:00

- DEC 29 - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Holy Cross Parish Finances

Week ended December 15th

Total Weekly	\$4,630.67
Budget	\$2900.00
Variance	\$1,730.67

Year to Date

Total	\$61,243.86
Budget	\$69,600.00
Variance	-\$8,356.14

THANK YOU FOR
your generosity



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"Christ held Himself in His hands when He gave His Body to His disciples saying: 'This is My Body.' No one partakes of this Flesh before he has adored it."

- St. Augustine

Pray for our Seminarians

Lord Jesus, we ask your special blessing on those preparing for the priesthood in our seminaries. We pray that they will grow in faith, hope and love. Give them courage and perseverance and be their constant companion as they prepare to serve you and your people with the fire of your love. Make them holy as you are holy. Amen.

Dcn. Dillon Armstrong, John Cooney, Kaleb Mitchell, Riley Helgoe, Brett Rotz, Jamie Severson, Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Matt Keck, Carson Gorton, and Jake Smith.

Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

Prayer Chain

Beginning September 29 bulletin unless otherwise requested after one month prayer request names will be removed from the prayer chain

John Clark, Martin and Margy Clark, Bill and Marilyn Lane, Shanna Montonario, Kadence Saxton



Holy Cross recommends that the following be respected:

Christian Burial:

Notice should be made with the priest before arrangements are made with the funeral director.

Social Hall:

Our Social Hall and kitchen may be rented out for special events.

Please call the office for information for any of the above notices:
406-266-4811.

Since we moved to online giving about a year ago, we would like to know whom would like to continue getting and using envelopes for their offertory. If you do not contact the office by the end of the year, we will assume that you no longer want to receive envelopes.

Do you know that we have Catholic Radio in Montana? KNEH, 97.3FM in Helena is an affiliate of Relevant Radio, which has 220 radio stations broadcasting across the US. You can listen LIVE to KNEH on the My Parish app by clicking on the Radio microphone icon or listen LIVE at www.kneh.org

Please consider a memorial for your loved ones to the Holy Cross Cemetery instead of flowers.

THANK YOU!

Pastoral Council:

Jesse Swenson
Mary Ellen Schnur
Karee Eichinger
Michael Fiset
John Bleile

Finance Council:

John Rauser
Tim McAlpine
Tacy Swanton
Pat Miller
Monica Benton